

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 01985 251753Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ACDA-12 MCE-00 DODE-00
/074 W

-----050821 252003Z /50L

R 251720Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 169
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1985

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MILI, HO, ES, IS
SUBJECT: HONDURAS ACQUIRES HEAT-SEEKING MISSILES

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 1331 (NOTAL)(DTG 161603Z MAR 78), (B) TEGUCIGALPA

1872 (NOTAL)(DTG 181916Z APR 78), (C) TEGUCIGALPA 397 (NOTAL)
(DTG 231551Z JAN 78)

1. U.S. MILGROUP OFFICER VISITING SAN PEDRO SULA AIR BASE OBSERVED ONE HONDURAN AIR FORCE SUPER MYSTERE ARMED WITH A PRACTICE AIR-TO-AIR, HEAT SEEKING ISRAELI SHAFRIF MISSILE. IN CONVERSATION WITH ISRAELI MILITARY OFFICER HE LEARNED THAT HONDURAS HAD RECEIVED THE SHAFRIF, BUT WAS UNABLE TO ASCERTAIN IN WHAT QUANTITIES. IT SEEMS LIKELY THE SHAFRIF'S ARRIVED ALONG WITH THE TWO MOST RECENT SUPER MYSTERES (REF B).

2. U.S. OFFICER ALSO RECEIVED CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT HONDURAS IS PLANNING TO ACQUIRE FOUR TO SIX MORE SUPER MYSTERES TO ADD TO ITS
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PRESENT TEN. THE USG HAS ALREADY GIVEN PERMISSION TO THE GOI FOR THE SALE OF NUMBERS ELEVEN AND TWELVE UPON RECEIPT OF NECESSARY TRANSFER ASSURANCES FROM THE GOH. HOWEVER, TO DATE THE GOH HAS NOT INDICATED ANY CONCRETE PLANS FOR FURTHER PURCHASES.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS LITTLE DOUBT HONDURAS INTENDS TO BUY ALL SIXTEEN SUPER MYSTERES THAT ISRAEL HAS HAD FOR SALE.

ACQUISITION OF SHAFRIR'S WILL RESTORE HONDURAN AIR FORCE
SUPERIORITY IN THE FACE OF REPORTS THAT EL SALVADOR ALSO HAS THEM.
JARAMILLO

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Message Attributes

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